

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3130

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15713

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PFOR WB GW UR

SUBJECT: INVITATIONS TO SPORTS EVENTS IN BERLIN

REFS: (A) USBER 1943; (B) BONN 15549; (C) BONN 15546;
(D) BONN 15103

1. WE CONCUR IN USBER'S USEFUL ANALYSIS OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF DETERMINING WHETHER EVENTS SUCH AS THE SPRINT SKATING CHAMPIONSHIP ARE COVERED BY THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT REQUIREMENT THAT INVITATIONS BE ISSUED BY THE SENAT (REF A). THE ALLIED DEMARCHE TO THE GERMANS ON THE NEED FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE ANNEX IV PROVISION ON INVITATIONS HAS OBVIOUSLY TOUCHED A SORE NERVE (REFS C AND D). SHOULD THE OUTCOME OF THE FRG'S OWN LEGAL ANALYSIS BE THAT ANNEX IV DOES NOT APPLY TO INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS BECAUSE THEY ARE NON-GOVERNMENTAL, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE TO EXACERBATE THE PRESENT SITUATION BY DISAGREEING WITH THEM.

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2. THE ISSUE WHEN REDUCED TO ITS SIMPLEST TERMS IS WHETHER THE GERMANS WISH TO SEE WEST BERLIN DEVELOP AS AN INTERNATIONAL SPORTS CENTER. THE SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES WILL OBVIOUSLY USE EVERY EXCUSE THEY CAN MUSTER FOR BOYCOTTING EVENTS IN WEST BERLIN, IN ORDER TO PREVENT ENHANCEMENT OF ITS PRESTIGE AS AN INTERNATIONAL CENTER. IF THEY DO IN FACT STAY AWAY FROM MEETS SUCH AS THE SPEED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIP -- AN EVENT WHICH WILL OBVIOUSLY BE INCOMPLETE WITHOUT THEIR PARTICIPATION -- IT WILL NOT BE LONG BEFORE INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS BEGIN SIMPLY TO DECLINE GERMAN INVITATIONS TO SCHEDULE MEETS IN BERLIN. AS HERZ HAS IMPLIED, BUYING THE SOVIET DEFINITION OF THE ANNEX IV PROVISION ON INVITATIONS WOULD SEEM TO BE A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR INVALIDATING THIS PARTICULAR SOVIET EXCUSE FOR BOYCOTTING WEST BERLIN ACTIVITIES. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE DECISION IS BASICALLY ONE FOR THE GERMANS TO TAKE.

3. HOPEFULLY THE FRG AND THE SENAT WILL AGREE ON THE DESIRABILITY OF SENAT INVITATIONS IN CASES SUCH AS THIS. IF THEY DO NOT, WE WOULD -- UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTS TO THE CONTRARY -- BE PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH THEIR INTERPRETATION OF ANNEX IV FOR EVENTS THAT ARE CLEARLY NON-GOVERNMENTAL.
HILLENBRAND

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